

## CITY OF ISSAQUAH

### - DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE (DNS)

**Description of Proposal:** City of Issaquah proposal to restore fish and wildlife habitat on 450-foot reach of Issaquah Creek, less than a mile downstream of the Issaquah Salmon Hatchery. The project includes: enhancement of riparian vegetation in the stream buffer, installing in-stream large woody debris, bioengineer the eroding east streambank, providing trails and stream overlooks, and creating side channels to provide floodplain connectivity.

**Proponent:** City of Issaquah  
P.O. Box 1307  
Issaquah, WA. 98027  
Attn: Dana Zlateff

**Project Name/** Salmon Run Nature Park  
**Permit Number:** SHO15-00013

**Location of Proposal:** 810 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Issaquah Creek south of NW Juniper St.

**Lead Agency:** City of Issaquah

**Determination:** The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

**Comments:** This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days. Comments may be submitted between **September 17, 2015** and **October 1, 2015**. The Responsible Official will reconsider the DNS based on timely comments and may retain, modify, or if significant adverse impacts are likely, withdraw the DNS.

**Appeals:** You may appeal this determination by filing a Notice of Appeal with the Issaquah Permit Center located at 1775 12th Ave. NW, Issaquah between **September 17, 2015** and **October 1, 2015**. Appellants should prepare specific factual objections. Contact the SEPA Responsible Official to ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

#### **Notes:**

- 1) This threshold determination is based on review of the following information: Construction Plan Set (95%); Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA), The Watershed Company, June 2015; Cultural Resource Assessment, Cultural Resource Consultants, Inc. May 2015; Critical Areas Report: Salmon Run Nature Park Restoration Project, The Watershed Company, June 2015; HEC-RAS Hydraulic Analysis, The Watershed Company, May 2015; Critical Areas Study – Pritt Property, The Watershed Company, May 2012; Restoration Programmatic for the State of Washington, Specific Project Information Form (SPIF), Salmon Run Nature Park Restoration Project, for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Regulatory Branch, The Watershed Company, June 2015; environmental checklist received July 6, 2015; and other documents in the file.
- 2) Issuance of this threshold determination does not constitute approval of the permit. The proposal will be reviewed for compliance with all their applicable codes which regulate development activities, including:

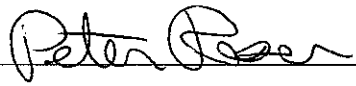
Land Use Code, Critical Area Regulations, Shoreline Master Program, Clearing and Grading Ordinance, and Surface Water Design Manual.

**Findings:**

1. The proposed project would provide channel restoration and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement along a section of Issaquah Creek that has been impacted by typical urban pressures, including; bank armoring, reduced in-stream wood, non-native vegetation along the banks, and reduced effective stream buffer width. The project addresses salmon recovery objectives in the WRIA 8 Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan and is also consistent with the City of Issaquah's environmental restoration and protection policy.
2. The project proposal includes the following components:
  - 1) The left (west) streambank will be excavated to create a floodplain bench and side channel to improve floodplain connections and allow for future, limited channel migration towards the left bank and away from the eroding right bank. In the process of excavating the floodplain, existing sections of rip rap stream armoring will also be removed. A widened floodplain and created side channel will also increase channel flow conveyance capacity along the project reach, so flooding will not be exacerbated in this urban setting. HEC-RAS hydraulic modeling has been conducted to support this conclusion.
  - 2) A vertical, eroded section along the right streambank is only a few feet from a paved parking area. The project will decrease ongoing scour along the right (east) side of the creek by strategically placing large woody debris and a rounded cobble and small boulder mixture. Logs will be placed in clusters at locations and in configurations designed to dissipate streamflow energy. Placement of coir fabric along the upper right bank, through-planted with native vegetation, will supplement habitat function along that bank.
  - 3) The stream channel is currently lacking in wood structure and defined pool/riffle sequences. A total of 17 log structures will be installed, composed of a total of 56 logs, predominantly with rootwads attached, plus an additional 35 rootwads. These multiple-log structures are size-appropriate for Issaquah Creek and are slightly smaller than what may be commonly considered to be engineered log jams. Rounded cobbles and small rounded boulders are included as specified.
  - 4) Logs will be placed in a somewhat dispersed fashion across the excavated left (west) bank floodplain areas such that they will come into contact with streamflow to provide localized quiet-water refuge areas at different elevations across a range of elevated flows. Pool depressions will not be formed around floodplain log structures in order to avoid or minimize the possibility of fish stranding.
  - 5) Non-native vegetation is prevalent in the project area, including Japanese knotweed, English Ivy, and Himalayan blackberry. Invasive and non-native plant species will be removed and affected areas will be then be revegetated with native plant species to create a functional buffer.
  - 6) Passive recreation opportunities will eventually be incorporated into the park, such as benches, trails with interpretive signage, and selective access to viewpoints along the creek. The proposal includes buffer averaging or adding additional buffer area to mitigate for trail and stream overlooks located within the stream buffer. The improvements are consistent with the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) goals to provide for public access and enjoyment of the shoreline. The City has found it important to provide defined, limited public access to the creek, in order to avoid multiple informal trails and disturbance of riparian planted areas.
- 7) The proposal includes measures to mitigate construction impacts, including:
  - In-water work areas would be isolated from the flowing stream. Fish would be rescued and removed from those areas.

- Heavy equipment used for in- and near-water work will utilize non-toxic (vegetable based) hydraulic fluids, in case of spills, and will be re-fueled away from the stream.
- Spill avoidance and containment procedures and equipment will be in place, and a temporary erosion and sedimentation control plan, as detailed, will be implemented.
- A Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) issued by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will be required. The HPA will also include measures for Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion control and spill prevention, construction sequencing, limiting the seasonal timing of construction work, and potentially other mitigation measures.

3) SEPA Rules, WAC 197-11-158(2)(d), direct a lead agency to place the following statement in the threshold determination if all of a project's impacts are addressed by other applicable laws and no conditions will be required under SEPA: "The lead agency has determined that the requirements for environmental analysis, protection, and mitigation measures have been adequately addressed in the development regulations and comprehensive plan adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW, and in other applicable local, state, or federal laws or rules, as provided by RCW 43.21C.240 and WAC 197-11-158. Our agency will not require any additional mitigation measures under SEPA."

**Responsible Official:** Peter Rosen  
**Position/Title:** Environmental Planner, SEPA Responsible Official  
**Address/Phone:** P.O. Box 1307, Issaquah, WA 98027-1307 (425) 837-3094  
**Date:** 9/17/2015 **Signature:** 

cc: Washington State Department of Ecology  
 Muckleshoot Indian Tribe  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)  
 Issaquah Development Services Department  
 Issaquah Parks and Public Works Engineering Departments

